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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT

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Letter dated 2 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 1 October 1992 on the occasion of their sixteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate it if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 43, 47, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 86.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Pakistan to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77
New York

ANNEX

Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77, adopted on 1 October 1992 at their sixteenth annual meeting

1. The sixteenth annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 was held in New York on 1 October 1992.

2. The Ministers welcomed the admission to membership of the United Nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, San Marino, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The admission of these new members strengthens the ideal of universality of the United Nations.

3. The Ministers also welcomed the admission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as full member of the Group of 77.

4. The Ministers reaffirmed the Tehran Declaration: Towards a New Partnership for Development, adopted by the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 on 23 November 1991 held in the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare for UNCTAD VIII.

5. The Ministers welcomed the results of the Tenth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned countries held in Jakarta from September 1-6, 1992, and noted their importance for the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCTION

6. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 agreed that the widening gap between developed and developing countries is one of the most urgent problems threatening the international community and that the present juncture in history is a defining moment which provides a unique opportunity for strengthening international cooperation for development.

7. They stressed that urgent concerted efforts by the whole of the international community are necessary to put into practice in the international economic system the agreements and commitments reached in the economic, social and related fields of the United Nations system.

8. The Ministers highlighted the efforts being undertaken by their own countries towards these goals and called upon developed countries to exert the necessary political will to fulfil their obligations in this regard, thus creating the conditions necessary for economic and social development for all peoples.

9. The Ministers, reaffirming their abiding commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the internationally accepted right to development, stressed that the United Nations system has a vital role to play in the attainment of key development objectives, especially in the developing countries. In this context, they stressed the importance of concerted efforts to enhance the capacity and the effectiveness of the United Nations system in order to make it more responsive to the development needs, priorities and objectives of the developing countries.

II

Economic and social environment

10. The Ministers underlined that with increasing interdependence of nations, the increasing globalization, the world-wide movement towards market-oriented reform, the goal of sustained economic development of developing countries is overwhelmingly dependent on a favorable international economic environment. The promotion of economic growth and development through international cooperation will enable the attainment of the welfare of the present and future generations of mankind and will also bring rich dividends in strengthening peace and security.

11. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the continuing deterioration of the world economy, in particular, the economic and social situation in most developing countries which is due largely to the prevailing international economic environment which remains heavily weighted against the developing countries. Efforts by the developing countries to foster growth and development continue to be frustrated by denial of market access, the disturbing trend in the negative flow of global financial resources, insufficiency of foreign investment flows, a crushing debt burden, restrictions on the transfer of technology and the inequities in the global, monetary, financial and trade systems. These factors have further compounded the predicament of the Least Developed Countries. They urged that the tendency towards the marginalization of the developing countries should be reversed and in this context, stressed that a high-level political agreement between the developed and developing countries is required to redress this situation. They reaffirmed that there is an urgent need to resume the North-South dialogue on a constructive basis as an instrument for the promotion of the economic growth and development of developing countries in order to achieve a just and equitable international economic order.

12. The Ministers expressed their view that the emerging global economic order should provide for more equitable economic opportunities for all nations, important features of which should be the strengthening of a free, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, effective macro-economic coordination, and fiscal discipline to ensure stable conditions conducive to development in the world

economy. In this context, the coordination of international macroeconomic policies should be broadened to take into account the concerns of all countries, in particular developing countries. Such coordination should be directed towards global economic growth and social development so as to achieve equitable distribution of the fruits of progress through an expanded world economy. The trend towards new and often unrelated conditionalities must be reversed.

13. The Ministers noted that the recent positive changes in the political sphere have opened a real opportunity for social and economic issues to be addressed in a more comprehensive way. In this context, they reaffirmed the importance and continued validity of the Eighteenth Special Session Declaration, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth Development Decade, the Cartagena Commitment of UNCTAD VIII, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF), the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the various consensus agreements and conventions, especially Agenda 21, which were adopted during UNCED process. The Ministers reiterated the need for political will on the part of developed countries for the effective implementation of their commitments embodied in relevant documents, particularly in the areas of financial resources and transfer of technology.

14. The Ministers noted that in the years ahead different facets of the developmental consensus will be discussed during the forthcoming conferences, namely the International Conference on Population and Development, the Conference on Human Rights, the World Conference on Women and the envisaged Summit on Social Development. The Ministers underlined the importance of the convening of an international conference on the Financing of Development.

15. They expressed concern that the increasing needs of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States for external resources are affecting the availability of resources to the developing countries. In this context, the Ministers recalled the assurances given by the developed countries and the multilateral financial institutions during the High-level Meeting of ECOSOC held in Geneva on 4-5 July 1991 that assistance to be given to the Central and Eastern European countries would not be at the expense of the developing countries. The Ministers stressed that those needs should be met from additional resources and not at the expense of resources earmarked for the developing countries.

III

ECOSOC and restructuring

16. The Ministers welcomed the holding of a High Level Segment in a revised format with Ministerial participation at the 1992 Substantive Session of Economic and Social Council from July 6-8, 1992.

17. The Ministers took note of the measures for restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and resolved to make the United Nations more democratic, effective and efficient to enable it to meet new challenges. They reaffirmed that in this context, General Assembly resolution 45/264 provided the guiding principles and guidelines for the successful outcome of this important exercise and must continue to be the basis of reference for further steps in such process. This effort should also take into account the thrust and principles contained in S-18/3 adopted at the Eigtheenth Special Sesssion of the General Assembly, resolutions 45/199 and 46/235 and other relevant resolutions. They stressed that the restructuring and revitalization endeavours must preserve the democratic principles which underpin the decision making process of the United Nations.

IV

International Trade

18. The Ministers welcomed the successful outcome of UNCTAD VIII as reflected in the final document, "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", and stressed the importance of its expeditious and effective implementation. They reiterated their conviction that a free, open, transparent, rule-based and non-discriminatory international trading system can provide an effective and viable basis for the promotion of equitable development and economic prosperity of all countries.

19. The Ministers identified freer access to the developed countries' markets as an indispensable means of taking full advantage of international trade which they consider as the most important vehicle for advancing the economic growth and sustaining the momentum of development of the developing countries. In pursuit of these central objectives the developing countries have initiated various supportive trade policy measures including the adoption of unilateral trade liberalization measures. The Ministers expressed the hope that the emerging regional trading arrangements are open and transparent so as to contribute towards enhancing multilateral trade and cooperation. Moreover, developed countries are resorting increasingly to unilateral protectionist measures in clear violation of the rules of international trade. They further observed that it was ironic that these protectionist measures are taking place at a time when the developing countries have accepted the need to liberalize their trade regimes and to integrate their economies in the global system of trade and finance.

20. The Ministers called for the successful and balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations at the earliest. A principal objective of developing countries in these negotiations is to bring about further liberalization and expansion of world trade through, inter alia, the dismantling of protectionist measures specially the discriminatory restrictions imposed on certain exports of the developing countries. Although the main thrust of these negotiations has in recent months been in respect of new issues, every effort should be made to ensure that the Uruguay Round is concluded by fully taking into account the concerns and interests of developing countries in all sectors. They further noted that if the opportunities afforded by the Uruguay Round are missed, it will constitute a severe blow to multilateralism. They therefore called on all countries and in particular the developed countries to resolve their differences speedily and conclude the round of negotiations in a transparent, balanced and expeditious manner. In this context, they urged the developed countries to avoid aggravating the severe economic difficulties facing the developing countries by pursuing reprehensive trade practices, including corrupt practices. They called for an early adoption of a binding international instrument aimed at ending such trade practices.

Commodities

21. The Ministers emphasized that the dominant feature of the present world commodity economy was that of structurally distorted markets and persistently low and declining real commodity prices. They believed that the solution to the commodity problem called for urgent measures to be taken in conformity with the Integrated Programme for Commodities. They therefore urged that producers and consumers continue to explore ways and means of reinforcing their cooperation. Full and active participation in international commodity agreements and arrangements should be pursued with a view to achieving more efficient international commodity cooperation and assisting the diversification of the economies of commodity-dependent developing countries. There is a sense of urgency to improve market conditions and to achieve higher levels of processing, marketing, distribution and transportation of commodities. Concrete programmes are needed to be drawn up for maximum utilization of the Common Fund for Commodities. The Ministers took note of the proposal for convening an international conference on commodities as well as of the decision by UNCTAD VIII (Cartagena Commitment) to launch a process of consultations on the possibility of convening such a conference.

V

External Debt of Developing Countries

22. The Ministers emphasized that the problem of the external debt and debt servicing of developing countries continues to impose severe constraints on their

economic growth and development. The servicing of their huge external debt has drained badly needed resources for investment. It has also led to a situation where there is an increasing substantial transfer of resources from developing to developed countries. The response of the international community to the debt problem has been sporadic, piecemeal and inadequate. The Ministers stressed that only a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problem which would take into account the need to significantly reduce the stock and service of all types of debt to all types of debtor countries and include anticipatory measures to prevent the proliferation of the debt problem, would lead to the alleviation of this burden on the developing world. In the absence of such measures the efforts being made by developing countries for their accelerated development would be thwarted and bring in its wake the greater risk of social and political turmoil. In this respect, the Ministers emphasized that a durable solution must include strengthening and liberalization of the international trading system as the most important source of real growth and development and, therefore, of the resources necessary for debtor countries to face their financial obligations. They also took note of recent debt reduction measures and initiatives as an important step towards a durable solution of the external debt problem, and emphasized the need for similar arrangements to be extended to all indebted developing countries. They stressed the continued consideration and wider application of innovative measures, such as debt-for-equity swaps, debt swaps for the protection of nature and debt-for-development swaps as contributions towards addressing the external debt problems of all indebted developing countries. Moreover, low income countries which have continued to service their debts at considerable sacrifice to themselves must be provided some relief for example in the form of balance of payments support. At the same time they reiterated the advisability of seeking innovative and creative ideas for the solution of the external debt problem.

Monetary and Financial System

23. The Ministers reiterated that the present international monetary system which is based on the dominant role of the major developed countries is in need of systemic and institutional reform. They expressed serious concern over the lack of progress in efforts to effect meaningful reform and to restructure the international monetary and financial system. The International Monetary Fund should ensure efficient multilateral surveillance particularly over balance of payments trends and exchange policies of the major developed countries. They called upon developed countries to democratize consultations as well as the decision-making process in the multilateral financial institutions so that broadened participation will ensure that the interets and needs of development of developing countries would be adequately represented.

24. The Ministers noted that a major source of capital flows for the developing countries have been the multilateral financial institutions comprising the World

Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the regional development banks. The net transfer from these institutions as a group has been falling off rapidly and in some cases developing countries are facing the prospect of a net transfer financial outflow in favor of these institutions.

Development Finance

25. The Ministers stressed the failure of the international financial system to furnish adequate development finance over the years, thus leaving the developing countries with serious financial problems. In this context, the Ministers underlined the importance of convening an international conference on Financing of Development.

26. Sharp contraction in external commercial flows and virtual stagnation in Official Development Assistance (ODA) at less than half the agreed target level of 0.7% Gross National Product, a commitment which they first made nearly 20 years ago, have had a major adverse impact on development prospect. The negative net transfer of resources from the developing countries can also be reduced and reversed by a significant increase in new capital flows to the developing countries. They urged developed countries, which have not done so, to fulfill their commitment of attaining the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP as Official Development Assistance by the year 2000.

27. The Ministers stressed that the provision of additional, concessional resources to low-income countries is a matter of particular importance. In this context they called for the increase in real terms of resources available under the tenth replenishment of IDA, taking into account the growing needs of low-income countries for concessional finance. Similarly, additional financial flows under the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) and the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) should provide medium-term concessional flows to low-income countries. They also stressed the importance of achieving the highest possible level for the Fourth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Foreign direct investment

28. The Ministers stressed that foreign direct investment was an important source of capital and financial flows to developing countries. In this regard, they called on developed countries to encourage such flows, through appropriate measures, to developing countries. They also recognized the vital role TNCs played as a vehicle of foreign investment.

U.N. Operational Activities for Development

29. The Ministers recognized the need to rationalize the operational arm of the UN system with a view to ensuring greater effectiveness and optimum delivery of programmes. They reaffirmed the principles of universality, multilateralism, voluntary/grant nature, neutrality, non-conditionality and flexibility in meeting the technical cooperation requirements of developing countries. The Ministers emphasized the vital importance of meeting increasing resource needs of developing countries in regard to the operational activities for development. They stressed that the way to achieve this objective is through substantial and urgent increase in real terms of the overall level of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system on a continuous, predictable and assured basis bearing in mind the special needs of the LDCs. They further stressed that the developing countries should assume full responsibility for the execution of projects funded by the United Nations system in order to ensure that they are managed in an integrated manner, to strengthen national capacities and to ensure the long-term sustainability and wide impact of projects in the development process. Moreover, the Ministers emphasized that the programming of operational activities must be in full accord with the priorities, objectives, national plans and development strategies of developing countries, who are solely responsible for their definition. Any attempts to impose conditionalities which violate the basic principle of neutrality of multilateral assistance must be rejected. Financial contributions should be untied. The Ministers stressed the need for the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

Environment and Development

30. The Ministers stressed that the environment is the common concern of all humanity and therefore its problems should be redressed through multilateral cooperation, based on common but differentiated responsibilities, common endeavours and a balanced perspective. Such cooperation should ensure that protection of the environment, economic growth and development, and poverty eradication be mutually reinforcing. Therefore, it is imperative that environmental and developmental concerns must be integrated. Towards this end, they urged that all states cooperate in promoting a supportive and conducive atmosphere that would result in sustained economic growth and development for all countries. The developed countries having acknowledged the main responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development, in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and because of the technologies and financial resources they command must fulfil their responsibility.

31. The Ministers also stressed that the lasting solution to the global environmental problems lies in the concept of sustainable development. While sustainable development has been recognized by the international community, the

challenge remains to translate this concept into workable strategies and policy measures that can gain the support of all. The Ministers reiterated the need for political will on the part of developed countries for the effective implementation of their commitments embodied in Agenda 21, particularly in the areas of financial resources and transfer of technology.

32. The Ministers were of the view that the developing countries have the sovereign right to use their own natural resources in keeping with their developmental and environmental objectives and priorities. They therefore urged developed countries and international institutions not to use environmental considerations or conditionalities as an excuse for interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries, nor should this be used to introduce any forms of conditionality in aid or development financing, or to impose trade barriers affecting the export and development effort of the developing countries.

33. While welcoming the outcome of the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, the Ministers emphasized that the results will only be meaningful if adequate, new and additional financial resources are to be made available for the implementation of the Programme of Action of Agenda 21. They noted the reaffirmation of the commitments of developed countries to achieve UN target of 0.7% of GNP for ODA and, to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, agreed to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible or by the year 2000. In this context, they also stressed the imperative need for the developed countries and multilateral financial institutions to implement these commitments by granting adequate development assistance to developing countries.

34. They also welcomed the recommendation to the UN General Assembly on the establishment, in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter, of a High Level Commission on Sustainable Development. This Commission would help enhance international cooperation for sustainable development and also, on a priority basis, monitor financial and technology flows to developing countries. By monitoring the implementation of programmes in developed countries it would be possible to ensure the adequacy of the environmental space required by the developing countries for their economic and social advancement. They believed that the Commission should be convened as soon as possible in order to ensure that the follow-up of the Rio Conference will meet the expected hopes and aspirations of all countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the decision taken at the UNCED at Rio de Janeiro of convening a pledging conference for initial commitments by the developed countries to be held during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and expressed the hope that developed countries would make significant commitments to this end.

35. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development aimed at the adopting of an international

Convention to combat desertification, in particular in Africa. They stressed the importance of the establishment by the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly of an open-ended intergovernmental negotiating Committee for the elaboration and adoption of such international Convention before June 1994. They called upon the developed countries as well as the relevant International Organizations to pay due regard to the elaboration of this international Convention, which should contain appropriate commitments.

Science and Technology

36. The Ministers stressed that science and technology is crucial for the promotion of economic growth and development of developing countries. The benefits of science and technology can be optimized by jointly promoting and strengthening endogenous capacities of developing countries and by evolving effective modalities for the access to and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms. The Ministers expressed concern at the increasing trend to hinder the free flow of technology to developing countries. They urged the developed countries to improve the access of developing countries to new technologies on fair and reasonable terms and to foster their dissemination and use.

37. The Ministers urged the continuing implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and called on all countries, especially developed ones, as well as on the international development institutions, to consider seriously the reinvigoration of the United Nations financing system for science and technology for development as envisaged in the Vienna Programme of Action.

38. The Ministers, welcoming the establishment of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, underlined its important role in promoting science and technology, specially in developing countries.

Energy

39. The Ministers reiterated that the adequate supply of energy is vital to the acceleration of growth and development of the developing countries. The Ministers called upon all countries to assist the developing countries in developing their energy resources. The international community should explore ways and means of overcoming the adverse effects of energy price fluctuations on developing countries. In view of their crucial importance for all countries, it is necessary to develop new and renewable sources of energy in accordance with the objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The Ministers welcomed the establishment by the 1992 substantive session of ECOSOC of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development.

Industrialization

40. The Ministers believed that industrialization remains a dynamic instrument of growth essential to accelerating economic and social development particularly in the developing countries. They noted that during the previous decade, world industrial production had been developing unevenly, with some developing countries undergoing a decline in real growth. They pointed out the necessity to properly assist the different stages of industrialization of developing countries. They noted that the target established at the Lima Conference of 25% of world manufacturing value added is far from being achieved by the developing countries. They called for the application of the principle of comparative advantage for the phasing out of industrial units in the developed countries in areas in which the developing countries' industries are more efficient and to this end called upon developed countries to eliminate protectionist measures in support of their uncompetitive industries.

41. The Ministers emphasized the imperative need to keep industrialization issues at the center of global attention, and its role in the reactivation of the development of the developing countries.

Food and Agriculture

42. The Ministers reaffirmed that food and agriculture including, inter alia, adequate production and food security, have special importance in the development of developing countries. They highlighted the importance of ensuring developing countries' access to markets in the context of a full liberalization of agricultural trade, including progressive reduction of export subsidies in developed countries, and the supply of the inputs necessary for production, taking into consideration the interests of the net food importing developing countries. They also stressed that an increase in agricultural production in developing countries can be a basis for industrial growth and diversification of their economic structure. To that end, they considered that financial cooperation and investment should form part of national policies and programmes for international cooperation. The Ministers called upon the international community particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to closely monitor further development in the global food situation with a view to responding adequately and timely to the needs of developing countries. The Ministers called on all donor countries to ensure the maintenance of food assistance and to increase its share of aid channeled through the World Food Programme to enable the Programme to continue its activity in support of development and in meeting emergency food needs of developing countries. The Ministers reaffirmed that the right to food is a universal human right and should be guaranteed to all people and should not be used as an instrument of political pressure.

43. The Ministers reiterated that within the food and agriculture sector, national food strategies remain a very useful means for advancing food production, food self-reliance and better access to food. In this context, they welcomed the efforts being made and assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the Regional Development Banks, the International Fund Agricultural Development and United Nations Development Programme in this field and encouraged to improve food strategy cooperation and coordination among multilateral agencies.

44. The Ministers welcomed the Geneva Declaration on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women and called for its implementation. They also welcomed the convening of the forthcoming international conference on nutrition in Rome.

Human Resource Development

45. The Ministers reaffirmed that people are central to all development activities and that human resource development is an essential means of achieving economic and social development goals. They urged that human resource development should be undertaken in an overall, well conceived and integrated approach, taking into account such areas as health, nutritional improvements, education and training as well creating more opportunities for employment. In this regard, human resource development should be designed for purposes of realizing the potential capabilities, skills and self-reliance to meet the growing manpower requirements of the developing countries.

46. The Ministers reaffirmed that eradication of illiteracy and providing education for all should remain a top priority with a view to reaching the goal of eradicating illiteracy by the year 2000. In this context the Ministers welcomed the efforts undertaken by UNESCO in various Member States which have resulted in the decline of worldwide illiteracy rates in real terms. Noting the results of the recently concluded International Conference on Education, the Ministers stressed the need for incorporating the cultural dimension in the educational and development policies being pursued by Member States.

UNDP in the field of Human Development

47. While welcoming the efforts of UNDP in the field of human development, the Ministers believed that the incursion into areas beyond the mandate and competence of UNDP has proved to be divisive and not constructive. Therefore, they called upon UNDP to strictly observe its mandate and continue its productive activities in assisting developing countries to achieve their development goals, taking into account General Assembly resolutions related to patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators for development.

Social Development

48. The Ministers further reaffirmed the goals set forth in the United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development adopted in United Nations General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) and the need to effectively implement them in order to achieve a more just and equitable social order. They also welcomed with satisfaction ECOSOC resolution E/1992/27 which recommends to the General Assembly the convening of a World Summit for Social Development at the level of Heads of States and/or Government in early 1995.

Population

49. The Ministers underlined the importance attached to the relationship between population and development and the need for all countries to strengthen the level of awareness of population issues. In this context, the international community should support the national policies and programmes of all countries, especially developing countries, taking into account the sovereign right of all countries to formulate, adopt and implement their population policies, mindful of their culture, values and traditions, as well as their social, economic and political conditions. Such population programmes should be accompanied by improvements in the quality of human resources and expansion of job opportunities. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the planned convening of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 in Cairo.

Human Settlements

50. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of providing adequate shelter for the well-being of the people. They expressed their keen desire that the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly may take a decision to hold the Second International Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1997. In this context, they welcomed the efforts made and assistance provided by UNCHS.

South-South Cooperation

51. To take a concerted action in the negotiations with the North, it is necessary to prepare realistic guidelines for joint action, to revitalize the Group and strengthen its cohesion and solidarity.

52. The Ministers were of the view that as an indispensable corollary to efforts in the North-South context, South-South cooperation based on the concept of collective self-reliance, must also be intensified. They were further of the view that the development of concrete, practicable and mutually beneficial economic and technical cooperations among the developing countries, not only opens up new avenues for growth and reduces undue dependence vis-a-vis the North, but also

constitutes an integral element of any strategy towards enhancing international economic cooperation. They emphasized that success in South-South cooperation will lend greater credibility and added strength to efforts in attaining a new, just and equitable international economic order. In this context and in order to accelerate the implementation of projects of common interest to developing countries, an evolutionary and flexible approach is appropriate, whereby groups of interested countries, as core groups, initiate cooperation in such projects which are open to all developing countries. They were of the view that if these groups of core countries are ready to implement projects of mutual benefit, such initiatives should be encouarged, particularly where they contribute to strengthening the collective self-sufficiency of the developing world.

53. The Ministers stressed that in addition to efforts undertaken by developing countries to promote economic and technical cooperation among themselves, the objectives set forth by the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC need to be further pursued and accomplished. In this context, they called upon the donor countries as well as the United Nations organizations in all their programmes to extend their support to these efforts to strengthen the collective self-reliance of the developing countries.

54. The Ministers welcomed the results of the Fifth Meeting of Representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries, held in Jakarta, 16-20 February 1992, to promote South-South trade, industrial cooperation, investment and joint ventures.

55. The Ministers were of the view that cooperation between the business communities of the developing countries should be expanded to both, strengthen their self-reliance, as well as to reduce their dependency on the developed countries. The Ministers acknowledged that the Global System on Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) was an important vehicle for expanding trade among developing countries and urged that efforts be made to strengthen it. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the Tehran Declaration on Launching the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations, and thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the GSTP Ministerial Meeting on launching the Second Round. They called upon interested members of the Group of 77 to participate in the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations and to the work of the Negotiating Committee with a view to acceeding to the Agreement on GSTP and to carry forward the exchange of trade concessions. They endorsed the Tehran Declaration's request for the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, UNCTAD, UNDP and other intergovernmental orgnaizations to provide financial and other support for the conduct of the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations and the implementation of its results. The Ministers welcomed the offer of the Republic of Cuba to host the Ministerial Meeting of the Negotiating Committee for

the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations to be concluded, in principle, in July 1994.

56. The Ministers took note of the postponement of the Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on ECDC (IFCC-VIII). In this connection, the Ministers requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to undertake the necessary measures for convening IFCC-VIII at a suitable date, preferably in the first half of 1993 in one of the regional commissions or in New York.

Critical economic situation in Africa

57. The Ministers expressed concern over the continued deterioration of the economic situation in Africa. Despite concerted efforts undertaken jointly by the countries of Africa and the international community, economic and social conditions actually worsened in most African countries, especially in the Sub-Saharan region. And, the goals set by the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) 1986-1990, were far from being realized.

58. They noted that the continuing critical economic situation in Africa was rooted in many sources which include, inter alia, chronic indebtedness, commodity dependency, collapse of commodity prices, structural deficiency and an inability to mobilize adequate resources for economic growth and sustained self-reliant development.

59. The Ministers fully supported the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) in the 1990s which was adopted by the 46th UN General Assembly, renewing the commitment of the international community to achieve self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development in Africa.

60. The Ministers called upon the international community and especially the developed countries, the United Nations and the multilateral finance and development institutions, to fully support the new agenda and to take appropriate measures to implement the commitments undertaken in it.

61. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the adverse impact of the continuing deterioriation of the economic situation in Africa on the socially disadvantaged sectors, particularly the children. They appealed to the international community, in particular the developed countries, the international and regional organizations, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the international conference for assistance to the African children scheduled to be held in Dakar, from 25 to 27 November 1992.

Least Developed Countries

62. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation in the least developed countries. They further noted that over the past decade most of the least developed countries have experienced negative growth rates and suffered from inadequate international development assistance to implement their programmes of economic development and structural transformation. Referring to the serious vulnerabilities of the least developed countries, the Ministers reaffirmed the special needs of these countries and called for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as well as other concrete measures in specific areas considered important to spur growth and development in these countries on a sustained basis. The Ministers stressed the need for additional resource flows following the enlargement of the group of LDCs on application of new set of criteria.

Land-locked developing countries

63. The Ministers recalled all previous decisions of the Group of 77 concerning the land-locked developing countries and noted with concern that the measures taken so far have not been sufficient to tackle the serious problems faced by these countries. They reiterated the need to address the specific problems of these developing countries with regard to reducing the costs of their access to and from the sea and world markets. They stressed the need for the international community to assist and improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of transport facilities, diversify their economies and increase financial resources and technical cooperation to promote the above-mentioned activities. In this context, the Ministers stressed the need and importance of cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries.

Island developing countries

64. The Ministers recognized the acute problems faced by small island developing countries arising from their geographic configuration and location, high exposure to natural disasters, limitations in transport and communications, great distances from market centers, limited availability of fresh water, heavy dependence on imports, depletion of their non-renewable resources and shortage of administrative personnel. They noted that the specific problems of small island developing countries and the growing incidence of natural disasters retarded their growth and increased their susceptibility to the hostile economic environment, and expressed the need for the international community, particularly the donor countries and the United Nations system to address the specific problems of these island developing countries. In this regard, they welcomed the recommendation contained in Agenda 21 for a

global conference on the sustainable development of small island states to be held in 1993.

VI

65. The Ministers noted with great concern the refusal of Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions to put an end to its occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, Syrian Golan and parts of Southern Lebanon, and the continuation of the Israeli occupation authorities in establishing settlements in those territories and bringing in new Jewish settlers depriving the Arab people of their land and sovereignty over their natural resources, thus impeding their economic and social development and hindering the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, the Ministers affirmed the urgent need to see the termination of this occupation. Taking into account the recent developments on the Middle East question, the Ministers called for a halt to these settlement activities and the removal of all these settlements from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

66. The Ministers took note of the recent developments that have taken place in South Africa. They expressed their satisfaction over the repeal and amendments of some of the basic discriminatory laws, the convening of the Patriotic United Front Conference in October 1991 and the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA). However, they expressed concern on the discontinuation of negotiation process under CODESA framework. They strongly urged the South African regime to create a climate conducive to peaceful negotiation and free political activity, by repealing all remaining discriminatory laws, releasing all political prisoners as well as facilitating the return of all political exiles. The Ministers, noting that the present level of change in South Africa is not yet profound and irreversible, stressed the necessity of maintaining pressure against South Africa for the total eradication of apartheid and establishing a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

67. The Ministers called upon the international community for the immediate elimination of the use of coercive economic measures against developing countries which have not been authorized by the relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles contained in the United Nations Charter as a means of forcibly imposing the will of one state on another.

VII

NAM and G-77

68. The Ministers reiterated the need to strengthen coordination between the activities of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement for promoting economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcome the proposal of the NAM to establish a Joint Coordination

Committee between both of them for the purpose of harmonizing, consolidating, and integrating whenever possible the sectors of the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (APEC) and the Caracas Programme of Action of the Group of 77 (CPA). In this context, the Ministers entrusted the Chairman of the Group of 77 to conduct appropriate consultations with the Chairman of NAM.